(c) Refund of Income Tax can be authorised only by the Income Tax Officers. There is no question of CDA refunding the deducted Income Tax.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (b) and (c).

**Deployment of MBT Arjan**

1425. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Main Battle Tank Arjun has since been handed over to the Army and deployed in *different sectors;*

(b) if so, the number of such tanks delivered and deployed; and

(c) what are the salient features and comparative advantages of this tank over other MBT available elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Six Pre-production Series ARJUN tanks have been handed over to the Army in June 1993 for User-cum-Troop trials. These trials are in progress. ARJUN tank has not yet been deployed by the Army.

(c) ARJUN incorporates state-of-the-art technologies like the modern integrated fire-control system, commander's panoramic sight, hydropneumatic suspension and armour (Kanchan). In all the principal attributes demanded in a contemporary Main Battle Tank (viz. fire power, mobility and protection), ARJUN compares very favourably with other tanks of its class in the world.

**Absorption of NCC cadets in the Army Force**

1426. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise total strength of N.C.C.;

(b) whether Government will consider absorption of exceptionally talented cadets in Army;

(c) whether Government have determined State-wise quota for recruitment of cadet; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether the recruitment of cadets in Maharashtra has been stopped for want of adequate number of uniforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A break up of the total strength of NCC is maintained Directorate-wise and not State-wise. The details are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) There are 32 vacancies already reserved in each regular course of Indian Military Academy for NCC 'C' Certificate holders, who have passed the UPSC competitive examination and been declared successful by the Service Selection Board.

(c) No State-wise quota has been fixed by the Government for the enrolment of cadets.

(d) Some temporary restrictions had been imposed on new enrolment, which have since been withdrawn.

**Statement**

| S. No. | NCC Directorate | Allotted Strength |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 70,290 |
| 2 | Bihar | 80,300 |
| 3 | Delhi | 36,720 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Gujarat, Diu & Daman & Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 53,250 |
| 5 | Jammu & Kashmir | 12,860 |
| 6 | Karnataka & Goa | 73,240 |
| 7 | Kerala & Lakashadweep | 73,690 |
| 8 | Madhya Pradesh | 77,600 |
| 9 | Maharashtra | 93,250 |
| 10 | North Eastern Region | 61,830 |
| 11 | Orissa | 43,550 |
| 12 | Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Chandigarh | 1,06,215 |
| 13 | Rajasthan | 44,380 |
| 14 | Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry & Andman & Nicobar Islands | 95,780 |
| 15 | Uttar Pradesh | 1,32,290 |
| 16 | West Bengal & Sikkim | 93,135 |
| | | 11,48,380 |

**LCA/PTA Projects**

1427. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of (i) Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and (ii) Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) projects; and

(b) the amount so far spent on these projects and when they are going to be inducted into the force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) After completion of Project Definition Phase (PDP); the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) of LCA has commenced in April 90 and would be carried out in two phases. Critical technologies for LCA are planned to be demonstrated in Phase I of FSED, which is already in progress. Phase II envisages integration of various other technologies being developed parallely during Phase I. The first flight of the Technology Demonstrator is planned in June 96.

The project for development of an indigenous Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) against Inter-Services qualitative Requirements is nearing completion in Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore.

After completion of User-Evaluation by the end of this year, Limited Series Production is proposed to be undertaken at HAL, Bangalore.

(b) The amount spent so far on LCA is Rs. 580 crores upto end June 93. LCA is to be inducted into Service-use around 2004. The amount spent so far on PTA is Rs. 21 crores. PTA is expected to be inducted into Service-use in 1995.

**Procurement of bulldozers for Indian Air Force**

1428. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delays in the procurement of bulldozers required to control unwieldy growth of vegetation around the runways resulted into flight safety hazards for the Indian Air